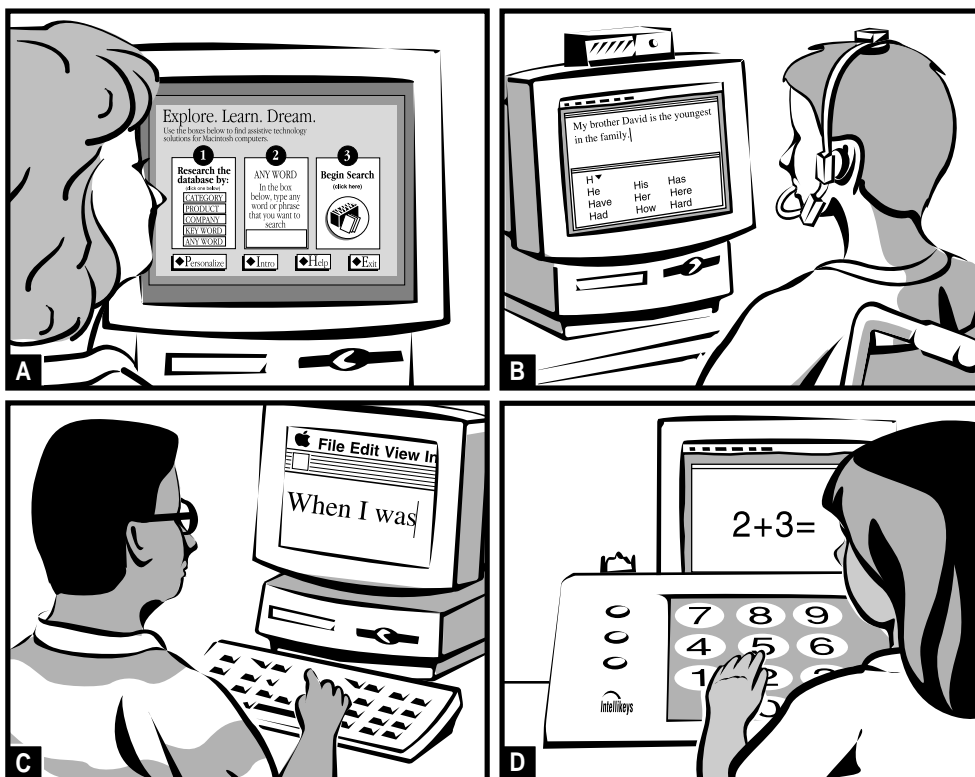**Making it easier to select the appropriate software and hardware for students with disabilities**

"My computer has been the best thing that has ever happened to me in my life. Now people do not have to read my words; they can listen just like everyone else. When I talk in my dreams, I have a computer voice."

—Adam Wulf, student with communication difficulties who uses a Macintosh

Disability Solutions

A. **Macintosh Access Passport.** A comprehensive database of access products for the Macintosh, available on disk from Apple.
B. **Head-controlled mouse.** This system uses a sip and puff tube attached to a headset that simulates the mouse. Used in conjunction with an on-screen keyboard, it can also replace the standard keyboard.
C. **Screen magnification system.** This software enlarges everything on the screen at a variety of magnification levels.
D. **Expanded keyboard.** An oversized keyboard with overlays (provided with the product or customizable) that provides larger key areas.

Since 1985, when Apple created the industry's first Disability Solutions Group, we have been at the forefront of making computer technology that meets the special needs of children and adults with disabilities.

There are many ways in which the Macintosh®—right out of the box—is accessible to someone with a disability. If your student has a visual disability, you may want to use CloseView—software included with every Macintosh—to magnify the computer screen. Or if someone uses only one finger or a mouthstick to type, you'll find that features in the Easy Access control panel make it easier to use the keyboard.

For example, Mouse Keys allows you to control the pointer on the screen by using the keyboard instead of the mouse. Sticky Keys makes keyboard shortcuts easier to type by allowing you to press the keys sequentially instead of simultaneously. And Slow Keys helps you avoid the accidental typing of unwanted keys.

On the reverse side of this page, you'll find information about assistive software and hardware devices that make using Macintosh computers easier for people with disabilities. And you'll find additional resources of information from Apple and other organizations.

Apple Education

Disability Solutions

Physical Disabilities

Depending on your students' personal abilities and preferences, there are dozens of different kinds of expanded keyboards, switches, and gadgets that give them access to the Macintosh. The right tool for one person may look like a traditional keyboard, but have large, touch-sensitive keys to help make typing easier. Maybe what's appropriate for another student is a product that can be held in one hand or attached to a positioning bar. Other useful products include on-screen keyboards that let you type with almost any part of your body; smart keyboards that allow you to customize each key's position, size, and function; and interfaces that let you connect single switches to the Macintosh.

Contact the companies listed below for information about their products.

Don Johnston, Inc.
1-800-999-4660
djde@aol.com

IntelliTools, Inc.
1-800-899-6687
intellitoo@aol.com

Madenta Communications
1-800-661-8406
gomadenta@eworld.com

Prentke Romich
1-800-262-1984

TASH, Inc.
1-800-463-5685
tashcan@aol.com

Visual Disabilities

For some students, software that enlarges what's on the Macintosh screen, and provides additional display modes, might be sufficient. For others, however, you might be interested in software that can read aloud the contents of the screen, including the location of on-screen images such as the pointer, icons, windows, and menus. And if you want to convert text to Braille and format it for printing on a Braille embosser, a Braille translator is also available.

Contact the companies listed below for information about their products.

Berkeley Access
(510) 883-6280
access@berksys.com

Duxbury Systems, Inc.
(508) 486-9766

Telesensory
1-800-227-8418

Communication Disabilities

If your students have difficulty with writing, consider a talking word processor or a word prediction program. For students who can't speak, you might be interested in communication software that draws from stored libraries of text that students access on demand via on-screen graphics or symbols. With such software, your students' Macintosh computer can literally speak their words.

Contact the companies listed below for information about their products.

Don Johnston, Inc.
1-800-999-4660
djde@aol.com

Mayer-Johnson Co.
(619) 550-0084

Other Resources

Apple Computer's Disability Resources
A source of answers to questions about how people with various disabilities might use Macintosh computers. You can also request a free copy of the Macintosh Access Passport, a disk containing a comprehensive database of access products for the Macintosh computer. This database covers a variety of disability categories, including visual, physical, hearing, learning, and speaking.

1-800-600-7808 or 1-800-755-0601 (TTY)
applewdsg@eworld.com
http://www2.apple.com/disability/

Alliance for Technology Access
A national network of nonprofit resource centers that provides information and consultation about computer use for children and adults with disabilities.

(415) 455-4575
atafta@aol.com

Trace R&D Center
A leading research and development site focusing on issues of access to computers and information systems. Trace also publishes a comprehensive resource book of computer and communications accessibility products.

(608) 262-6966
info@trace.wisc.edu

Closing the Gap
A national organization focusing on the use of computer technology by and for individuals with special needs. It publishes a bimonthly newsletter (including an annual resource directory) and conducts an annual conference.

(612) 248-3294

For information about Apple Education products, programs, and services, call **1-800-800-APPL (2775).**

Apple Education information can also be located on the Internet at
http://www.info.apple.com/education